

WESMONT MOVES AHEAD WITH NEXT PHASE

The Borough Planning Board recently approved Somerset Development's application for townhomes at Wesmont Station, reported Mayor Paul Sarlo.

"We are excited about this next phase of the Wesmont Station redevelopment, which has taken off since opening its first two luxury rental buildings in the Spring of 2012," said Mayor Sarlo. "Wesmont has brought new residents and ratables to Wood-Ridge and has completely turned around a blighted formerly industrial property. We look forward to Wesmont's continued expansion."

Pulte Homes, a leading national home construction company, is slated to break ground on a total of 215 homes at Wesmont Station by the end of 2013. Homes will be available in three different models with an anticipated price range of \$300,000 to \$500,000.



Townhomes have been approved to join the luxury rentals recently opened at Wesmont Station.

Smaller homes will have two bedrooms, one-and-a-half bathrooms, and a one-car garage. Medium-sized homes will be available with two bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, a one-car garage and a den. The largest of the designs will feature three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, walk-in closets, a two-car garage and a den. All homes will have a dining room, living room and kitchen.

SUMMER REC KEEPS WR KIDS ACTIVE RAIN AND SHINE

The summer's early rainstorms were no match for Wood-Ridge Summer Recreation, which waited out the inclement weather with indoor arts and crafts, bumper pool, Twister, gym time and movies at two sites, along with scheduled field trips to "Despicable Me 2," "The Lone Ranger," and Parkway Lanes Bowling alley.

When the skies cleared, Rec

participants enjoyed Splash Day at Donna Ricker Memorial Field and other themed days. In total, an average of 400 children participated in this year's program in June and July. The Rec program provided summer jobs for 39 paid counselors and seven volunteers, many of them alumni of the program who were home from college.

"Every year, the Summer

Recreation program brings a lot to the Borough of Wood-Ridge, and we are grateful to the directors and the counselors who imagine and organize the different activities," said Councilman Ezio Altamura, who also serves as Liaison to the Recreation Commission.

"Thanks to their efforts, children in Wood-Ridge have a way to stay active, social, and safe during the summer."



AND COMING THIS OCTOBER...

FIRE ENGINE RIDES
LEARN AND PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY.

THE WR MAYORS 5K RUN
RUN FOR A GOOD CAUSE.

THE RAGAMUFFIN PARADE
RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!

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WOOD-RIDGE NEWSLETTER

2013 EDITION #2

CHAMPS!
WOOD-RIDGE YOUTH BASEBALL PLAYERS COACHES MAKE HISTORY WITH DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS...MORE INSIDE



FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Welcome to the latest edition of the Wood-Ridge Borough Newsletter. The fall will be an exciting time in Wood-Ridge as many of the Borough's schoolchildren are returning to a new school on First Street. Following a \$5 million renovation, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth graders will now have their own dedicated school building, Wood-Ridge Intermediate School.

While we welcome back the students, we also extend a warm welcome to Joseph Luongo, the new Interim Superintendent of Schools.

And we congratulate our baseball teams, four of which earned District Championships this summer. This marks the winningest season in the history of the youth baseball program, and players, coaches and parents should all be very proud.

Town-wide, progress continues. We have secured grants to improve our roadways, sidewalks and drainage infrastructure, and to improve communications between first responders. Through these funding mechanisms, we are able to maximize the value of municipal resources and services without increasing taxes.

Finally, we hope you will join us for one of the events occurring in the months ahead that show just what makes Wood-Ridge a special place to live. A few are listed on the back of this newsletter, and more can always be found at www.njwoodridge.org.

Very truly yours,

Paul A. Sarlo
Mayor

BACK TO A NEW SCHOOL

Wood-Ridge Intermediate School First Day Ceremonies Set for September 3

The Borough of Wood-Ridge and the Wood-Ridge Board of Education are proud to announce that Wood-Ridge Intermediate School will open its doors to 4th, 5th and 6th graders for the first day of school on Tuesday, September 3.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m., Mayor Paul Sarlo, the Council, and the School Board will host a dedication ceremony at the front entrance on First Street.

They will then take the students and parents on a walk-thru of the building before classes begin.

All major construction has been completed this summer, reported Councilman Joseph DiMarco, who also chairs the Council's Special Redevelopment Committee on Educational Facilities.

"In preparation for the start of the year, Smartboards are currently being installed, as well as new appliances in the cafeteria, new desks, and other furniture," added DiMarco.

Wood-Ridge Intermediate School features 12 classrooms, two small group instruction rooms, a media center, art room, music room, central



FINISHING TOUCHES: The new First Street entrance of the renovated Wood-Ridge Intermediate School.

offices, a fully-renovated cafeteria and a fully-renovated gym.

The Borough purchased the school site from Assumption Parish for \$2.8 million in 2012 with financing from Wesmont Station redeveloper Somerset Development.

A subsequent \$5 million facility overhaul has included new windows, new ceilings, new colorfully-tiled floors, new cabinets, air conditioning, redesigned front and rear entrances, an elevator, state-of-the-art technology, security systems and cameras throughout the building.

Cover Photo by Mrs. Maryn Ochuzzo

NEW SUPERINTENDENT TAKES THE REIGNS OF WR SCHOOLS

Bringing more than 30 years of educational experience to his new role as Interim Superintendent of Schools, Joseph Luongo said he sees his position as one of realizing possibilities for the Board of Education, faculty, and students.

"I'm hoping that people will tell me what they want to see, how they want to improve, and I will be able to respond with what is both educationally and financially feasible," said Mr. Luongo.

Mr. Luongo rose through the administrative ranks of area schools over a distinguished career, serving most recently as Chief School Administrator for the neighboring Hasbrouck Heights School District.

Upon his retirement from the position in 2010, he applied his expertise to a private educational consulting company. He has held the positions of both President and Vice President of the Bergen County Superintendents Association.

"Working together with Joe to install new security systems and cameras in all of the schools over the summer has been a pleasure" said Mayor Paul Sarlo, "He shows an interest in collaborating, and on behalf of the Council, we offer him a warm welcome to Wood-Ridge."

Hand-in-hand with his passion for education, Mr. Luongo is a strong supporter of extracurricular activities, and holds a place in the Elmwood Park, Hasbrouck Heights, and Bergen County Wrestling Coaches Halls of Fame, to name just a few.



"I believe firmly that strong extracurricular programs can help graduating students with their future goals," said Mr. Luongo. In my time working in Wood-Ridge, I'm hoping to see this trend continue and hoping to get as many kids into extracurriculars as possible."

Mr. Luongo began his career as a physical education teacher after graduating from the University of Nebraska with Bachelor of Science degrees in Physical Education and Health. He also holds a Masters Degree in Elementary and Secondary School Administration and Supervision from William Paterson University.

WR TO PURSUE GRANTS FOR FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Following the recommendations of a recent preservation study, Wood-Ridge has applied to Bergen County for Historic Preservation grants for repointing, window replacements, and a new roof at the Memorial Library, said Council President Catherine Cassidy.

The study was funded by a \$25,000 Bergen County Historic Preservation Grant and detailed ways to preserve the "Brinkerhoff House" portion of the Wood-Ridge Memorial Library, an original structure dating back to the 1700s.

"These measures to preserve the Library come at a crossroads in history," said Cassidy, who also serves as Liaison to the Library Board. "While we initiate plans to preserve the physical building's rich past, the Library is also reinventing itself for the future, through new programs and a new vision of serving as a community center."

In any given day, a visitor to the Wood-Ridge Library may find someone doing research, taking a computer class, checking e-mail, using the free wireless internet, attending a story hour, participating in a yoga class, or hanging a photo in a monthly contest.

While learning remains core to the Wood-Ridge Memorial Library's mission, so does saving residents money. In addition to 30,000 best-selling books, newly-released DVDs and CDs, audio books and periodicals, the Library also maintains Amazon Kindles that residents can borrow for weeks at a time.

The Friends of the Library encourages residents to take advantage of the full range of the Wood-Ridge Memorial Library's products and services by signing up for a free library card, and invites residents to consider joining the organization to help grow its programs. For more information, visit www.woodridgememoriallibrary.org.

GRANT TO FUND NEW COMMUNICATIONS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

The Borough of Wood-Ridge has received a \$538,000 Assistance to Firefighters Grant from FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security to upgrade all communications infrastructure utilized by first responders.

"This grant provides for the replacement of all dispatch technology, which the Police Department uses to coordinate their own personnel, firefighters, emergency medical services, and the Department of Public Works," said Council President Catherine Cassidy, who also serves as Liaison to the Police Department.

The grant will fund a new communications tower on top of the Police station, as well as a primary console inside of the Police station and a backup unit in Fire Department headquarters. Additionally, the grant will provide for a mobile command unit on the Fire Department's rescue truck, and for new handheld communications devices for all personnel.

The comprehensive technological upgrade is expected to eliminate all dead zones for first responders in the Borough.

"This upgrade will allow our emergency responders to free themselves from dependence on a single location in the event of calamities like Superstorm Sandy," said Councilman Dominick Azzolini, Liaison to the Fire Department. "Should power fail, this technology will increase the overall resiliency of Wood-Ridge."



WR CONTINUES ON ROAD TO PROGRESS WITH GRANTS

The Borough of Wood-Ridge has been awarded a \$296,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation for the 2014 road resurfacing program.

"We have seen steady reductions to flooding, more navigable sidewalks, roadways that are easier on cars, and overall, a rise in the value of private properties in the Borough of Wood-Ridge as a result of our program," said Councilman Joseph DiMarco.

DiMarco, who serves as Liaison to Community Development, said that an \$69,000 Community Development grant from Bergen County has also been awarded for the purchase and enhancement of a property on Highland Avenue that will serve as a municipal parking lot for the Senior and Civic Center.

"Better still is the sound financial planning undertaken when opportunities for grants arise," added Councilman Ed Marino, who chairs the Finance Committee. "Over the past six years, the Borough has received more than \$2 million in grants to improve our roadways and related infrastructure."

Next year's road resurfacing will include new drainage infrastructure, curb cuts, sidewalks, and surface repaving on Wood-Ridge Avenue from 12th Street to Hackensack Street. 12th Street from Wood-Ridge Avenue to Highland Avenue, and Columbia Boulevard from 10th Street to Hackensack Street. Additional roads may be added.

14TH ANNUAL KEEP WOOD-RIDGE BEAUTIFUL DAY

More than 80 volunteers from throughout Wood-Ridge gathered for the fourteenth annual Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful Day on Sunday, June 2. The volunteers cleaned up litter on Hackensack Street and Valley Boulevard and planted fresh flowers at the Library, Civic Center, Senior Center and Veterans Park.

Department of Public Works personnel conducted tree elevations and maintenance.

A shredding event was also held from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in front of the Civic Center, sponsored by the Bergen County Board of Health and the County Utilities Authority.

Participants received brightly-colored t-shirts designed by a local student, and all were treated to refreshments thanks to the generous support of Shop-Rite Supermarket of Lodi, the Insera Family, the Lyndhurst Pastry Shop and Tullo Ice of Hasbrouck Heights.

"It was gratifying to see the shared efforts of many organizations in town including the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Knights of Columbus, WRHS students and Environmental Club, Police Department Auxiliary, Fire / EMS Department, DPW, families and individual residents, all working together with enthusiasm and cooperation for the betterment of Wood-Ridge," said Councilman Ezio Altamura, who also chairs the Keep Wood-Ridge Beautiful Committee. "Wood-Ridge is a special place to live and it was certainly evident that friends and neighbors take pride in our community."



RECORD-SETTING WINS FOR WR BASEBALL

The Summer of 2013 broke all previous records held by the Wood-Ridge Youth Baseball Program, reported Councilman Philip Romero, who also serves as the President of the Little League and Babe Ruth programs.

At the Little League level, the 12-year-old team became only the 5th team in the 60-year history of WRLL to win the New Jersey District 5 Williamsport Tournament. The 11-year-old team was the District 5 and Section 2 champion and went on to the state tournament in Cherry Hill. The 8-year-old team took second place in the Paramus and Lyndhurst tournament and the 9-year-old team took second place in the District Lodi tournament.

At the Babe Ruth level, the 16-19-year-old team was Bergen County's playoff champion. Babe Ruth's 13 and 14-15-year-old teams each earned the respective title of District 4 Champs.

"This is the most district championships the program has racked up in a season, and it represents a program made strong through dedicated coaches and parents, and of course, the hard work of the individual players" said Romero, who has been involved with Little League for 20 years.



WR 9-11 SERVICE VETERANS PARK
09-11-13 8 P.M.